




The COVID-19 Vaccine is Now Being Administered in Hartford - Are You Eligible?


CT residents & workers who are currently eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine include :


Groups Eligible Soon


  
Healthcare Personnel


  
Medical First Responders


  
LT Care Facility Residents & Staff


  
Congregate Settings Residents & Staff

  
Educators & Child Care Providers

  
INDIVIDUALS AGE 55 AND OLDER

  
Starting March 22  
All Individuals Ages 45 - 54

  
Starting April 12  
All Individuals Ages 35 - 44

  
Starting May 3  
All Individuals Ages 16 - 34

The Hartford News

March 4 – 10, 2021



COVID-19 Pandemic  
Light at the End of the Tunnel?

BY ANDY HART

Next week will mark one year since the COVID-19 virus fastened its grip on America and changed virtually every facet of life. But as that anniversary approaches, many signs are indicating that the tide is starting to turn in the battle against the pandemic, although when and if things will ever return to normal is still up in the air.

But on Monday, as cases of COVID-19 continue to decline, Governor Ned Lamont indicated that he may soon be easing some restrictions imposed by the State of Connecticut to slow the spread of the virus. “We’re making progress in the war against COVID,” the Governor said Monday. “That’s why on Thursday we’re going to make some



Clarence Palmer of Hartford receives his vaccination from EMT Roslyn Williams of Colchester on Saturday morning at Dunkin Donuts Stadium. The vaccine clinics at the stadium will continue every Saturday until further notice. (Hart photo)

announcements in terms of our cautious reopening, in terms of capacity for our stores and our restaurants and our retail and personal services.”

In another hopeful sign, this past weekend the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approved the long-awaited Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine, which requires only one dose rather than two like the vaccine being administered now. J&J said it hopes to ship a total of 20 million shots by the end of March.

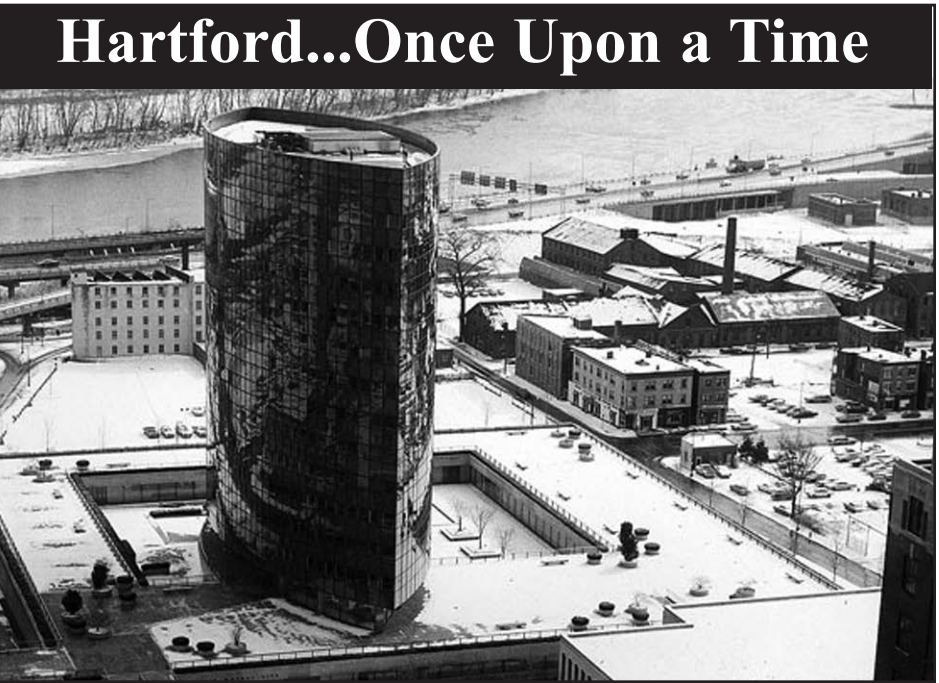
The main factor in how fast America travels along the road to recovery from the pandem-

Continued on page 2



Dominican Independence Celebration

Despite the cold and rain – not to mention COVID-19 restrictions – Connecticut’s Dominican community held its annual flag-raising at the State Capitol Saturday, February 27, to mark their homeland’s Independence Day. Shown above are event organizers Juan Brito, Osvaldo Peña, Mabel Santana Alcantara, Jean Tejeda and Cirilo Bonilla. Following the flag raising at the State Capitol, a similar ceremony was held at Hartford City Hall. The Dominican Republic gained independence from Haiti on February 27, 1844. The country has the oldest cathedral in the Western Hemisphere and the highest mountain in the Caribbean. (Hart photo)



This photo shows the famous Phoenix Insurance “Boat Building” on Constitution Plaza – but the buildings in the background are more interesting, since they have all since been demolished. The little building all alone at lower right at the southwest corner of Grove Street and Columbus Boulevard is the Connecticut Poultry Company. The store sold live chickens and refused to move to make way for Constitution Plaza, earning its owner nation-wide recognition as “The Chicken Man.” Many of the buildings on the east side of Columbus Boulevard were torn down to make way for the new headquarters of Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG). The CNG building, in turn, was torn down to make way for the Connecticut Convention Center. The company now has its offices in East Hartford. The area directly behind the Phoenix Building is now Riverfront Plaza. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

NEWS BRIEFS

Access Health CT  
Special Enrollment  
Period Ends March 15

Connecticut residents can now enroll in a health insurance plan through Access Health CT (AHCT) with the opening of a Special Enrollment period that will run until March 15, 2021. The deadline may be extended even further based on demand and other conditions. The Special Enrollment Period is for consumers who are not currently enrolled in coverage through AHCT. Those who enroll before March 15 will begin receiving coverage April 1, 2021. To enroll, you must pay your first month’s premium (monthly payment). Financial help will continue to be available to consumers who qualify. To find out more, go to [AccessHealthCT.com](https://AccessHealthCT.com) or call 1-855-805-4325, Mon. – Fri. 8 AM - 4 PM.

MARG Meets March 11

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 11, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Michael Looney, City of Hartford Director of Public Works will be the featured speaker. Public safety in the neighborhood will also be discussed. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

Lithuanian Sausage  
Sale at Holy Trinity

The Lithuanian Scouts of Greater Hartford will be having their annual sausage sale this month. Orders must be placed by Thursday, March 11. Call Deb Pileika at 860-668-6324 or Sigita Banevicius at 860-523-0239. Cost is \$14 for a 2.5 pound box and \$23 for a 5 pound box of sausages (frozen) Orders must be picked up on Sunday, March 21, between 9 am - 12 noon at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, 53 Capitol Avenue, Downtown Hartford. Proceeds will benefit the scouts and the church.

Continued on page 7



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# POWER TRIPPING

## The City of Hartford plays fast and loose with the FOIA

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

It was a simple request, a no-brainer no-strainer. I wasn't looking for any classified information, no city secrets. Nothing that could be used to damn or slander any Hartford citizen, public or private. It was information that should have been freely available and easily accessible on the hartford.gov website and barring that, could have been elicited in a reasonable amount of time—say a couple of days—after a polite phone call and email request to the city's Human Resources department. What was I looking for? A job description. That's it. All I wanted to know was this: What are the duties encompassed in that particular position? I sought no



names, addresses, or Social Security numbers, just the basic "What does this job entail?" Those generic documents are normally on file at any functioning HR department in any functioning city or town hall, but it's obvious that 550 Main Street isn't one of them. I waited over a month for a response from the HR director, or at least from another staff member he may have designated to take care of it; nope—dead silence. Turns out that that director eventually resigned (he was the 5th or 6th person the

mayor has appointed to that position) and took that

Continued on page 6

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

Continued from page 1

ic is how effective the vaccines proves to be against new variations of the virus – and how quickly and how many Americans get the vaccine. As of Monday, all Connecticut residents age 55 and older were eligible to receive the vaccine, along with those in certain job categories (see graphic at top of page 1). The vaccine is free. You do not need health insurance. You can make your appointment over the phone or online and there are over a dozen places in Hartford to receive your shot (see below).



Walter White from Cornwall Street gets ready to receives his vaccination from Paige Holden on Saturday morning at Dunkin Donuts Stadium. Connecticut residents age 55 and over are now eligible for the vaccine, along with those in certain job categories. (Hart photo)

## Make Your Appointment

### By Phone:


- Multilingual State Line: 877-918-2224, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Significant improvement have been made to the state line, very short wait.
- Multilingual Hartford Healthcare Line: 860-827-7690, M-F 8 am - 5 pm
- Multilingual City Health Dept: 860-757-4830, M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. City is expanding staffing to answer calls.

### Online:

- ct.gov/covicvaccine: State of CT: Put your zip code in top corner
- HartfordHealthCare.org/vaccine: Hartford Healthcare (Hartford Hospital):
- TrinityHealthOfNE.org/appointment: Trinity Healthcare (St. Francis Hospital)

- City of Hartford: 500 Albany Avenue, (860) 249-9625  
https://www.hartfordct.gov. There is a link at the top of the City of Hartford website to the City Vaccine Interest Online Form. They will help residents age 55+ get an appointment. It does ask if you have insurance, but you will not be charged.
- Connecticut Children's Medical Center, 282 Washington Street, (860) 545-9000
- Hartford Healthcare Clinic (CT Convention Center), 100 Columbus Blvd., 860-827-7690
- Hartford Hospital, 85 Seymour Street, 860-827-7690
- Parker Memorial Community Center, 2621 Main Street, 211
- Saint Francis Hospital, 260 Ashley Street, 1st Floor
- South End Senior Center, 830 Maple Avenue, 877-918-2224
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 1291 Albany Avenue, Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand Street, 860-550-7500
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 161 Washington Street, (860) 522-5005
- Wheeler Family Health & Wellness Center, 43 Woodland Street, 860-793-3500
- Dunkin Donuts Stadium, 10 am - 3 pm, every Saturday. Appointment required! Call (860) 757-4830 or go to City of Hartford website and click on Vaccine Registration Form.
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand Street, 860-550-7500
- Community Health Center Clinic, 76 New Britain Avenue, (860) 547-0970
- Community Health Services,

## Where to go for your Vaccine



# Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## Overreaching High Tech

We realize that the current age of high technology has benefitted society in many ways and will continue to do so more and more in the future.

However, there are many downsides to this so-called "progress." For example, almost all teachers and most public officials admit that distance learning – especially for those that need it the most – has failed. Up to half of Hartford students are absent, about one third of Hartford homes have trouble getting and maintaining regular internet service, and parents cannot always pick up the slack.

Another troubling factor is the mess made of the COVID-19 rollout. Thousands and thousands of seniors were originally left out by the push to register online. Some just don't have an internet connection, many more are unfamiliar with navigating through the web and became confused. Many just gave up. Finally, phone banks were set up but these became jammed with calls. While this situation is rapidly improving, we're still playing "catch-up." In the early phase of the vaccine program, lucky people were going to facilities late to get their shots even if they weren't eligible but knew that there would be some left over due to lack of response.

And, a few days ago we got a let-

ter from one the organizations we belong to stating that it needed input on important matters: "...A large obstacle has been the ability [meaning lack of ability!] of our senior members to participate in meetings virtually...but they continue to be the backbone of our club...we have certainly never discriminated against many of our members based on age. We certainly shouldn't start now."

Those who bully tax-paying, involved citizens into full participation in our digital society when they often don't have the means to do so should be ashamed of themselves. Not everyone has the resources, ability or desire to have everything go through a computer which, by the way, often doesn't work (as happened a during a few power outages this past winter.

Let's keep newspapers being printed and physical mail being delivered. When the COVID restrictions are relaxed, stop by and see an elderly relative or friend in person. Most people's lives are so dominated by the internet these days that it easy to forget that many people aren't "on the web" for various reasons, but they shouldn't just be cut out of society. The hubris of those highly proficient in the digital world to force their lifestyle on everyone else is very unfair and inefficient.



# From Capitol Hill

Communications from State Legislators

Dear Neighbor,

The legislature is targeting the Poverty Tax – state liens on our neighbors who may have needed state assistance in the past but have since fought their way out of poverty. The policy, known as a "welfare lien" treats public assistance as debt and is a huge roadblock to upward mobility and home-ownership.

The bill we passed says that the state will not recover cash assistance or medical assistance from a lien filed on any property valued at \$250,000 or less (unless required by the feds). A special thanks to the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance for their advocacy and guid-

## The policy is counter to the American Dream and I'm proud that the legislature is ending it.

ance on this issue.

I heard from a woman who needed state assistance as a single mother more than 30 years ago. In the years since, she worked hard to buy a home and served the state as a foster parent. As she explored retiring and moving closer to her grandchildren, she discovered that the state had slapped a lien on her home. The policy is counter to the American Dream and I'm proud that the legislature is ending it.

As always, please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, on Facebook @RepresentativeMattRitter or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Matt Ritter  
Speaker of the House

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## Food Pantry Opens at HPL’s Barbour Branch



On Thursday, February 11, Hartford Public Library’s Barbour Branch, 261 Barbour Street celebrated the opening of its new food pantry in partnership with Foodshare. Groceries and fresh fruit, when available, will be distributed outdoors at the branch, the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 3 to 4 pm. At the February 11 celebrations, volunteers from *Our Piece of the Pie* (above) helped distribute food packages while library staff members (including Elizabeth Rivera, Michelle McFarland, Geetha Karkera) handed out books. (Hart photos)

## Little Free Libraries and Food Pantries are Popping Up all Over Hartford

BY DONNA SWARR

As a former public, school and corporate librarian, I was skeptical at first about Hartford’s Little Free Libraries, which are basically community book exchanges. The Hartford Public Library already provides amazing access to reading materials, and an outstanding and diverse selection of programming. But when I consider that not all of our schools have libraries or someone to manage those libraries, I realized that these could help fill a gap. As a result, the Friends of Colt Park are planning on installing one near the playscape. Another benefit of these Little Free Libraries is the neighborhood connections they create. They’re a place to share, a place to discover, and a place to post neighborhood events. In September of 2019, Marie Sultana Robinson wrote an article for the *Hartford News* about these little wonders. At that time, most were in the west end. Now that the idea has caught on, I thought I would give Hartford news readers an update. To that end, I contacted Michelle McFarland, Outreach and Program Coordinator for HPL and told her that I was nervous, thinking that I would have problems filling the new Little Free Library in Colt Park. She assured me that she would make “deposits” but that I really shouldn’t worry; supply would not be a problem. HPL had to rethink distribution during COVID, and outreach became even more important. Helping out the Free Little Libraries seems like a perfect fit. Campfield Green on Maple Avenue, across from the

Barry Square post office has one of these Little Free Libraries, too. You know what you know and you don’t know what you don’t know.

To help

ford-ct. If you would like to add a location, send title and photo (optional) or the location to [thoughtsandflorals@gmail.com](mailto:thoughtsandflorals@gmail.com).

### Little Free Libraries

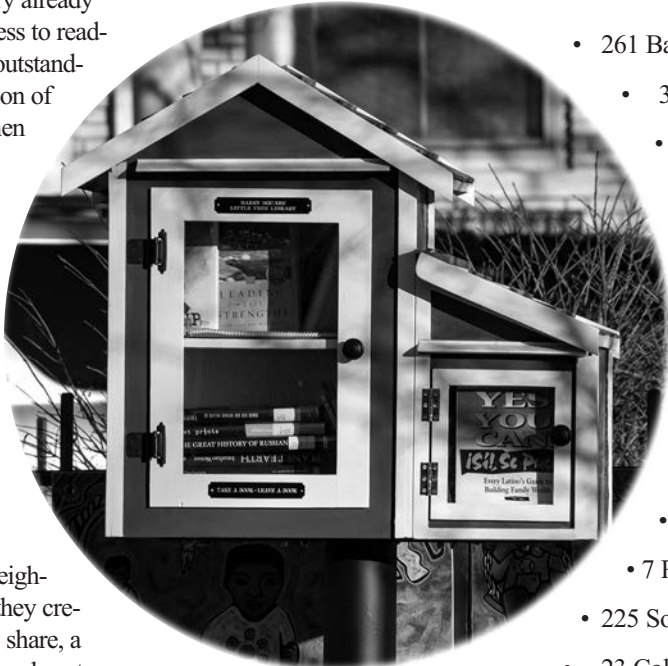
- 261 Barbour St.
- 350 Barbour St.
- 60 Love Ln.
- 280 Vine St.
- 347 Albany Ave.
- 199 North Beacon St.
- 150 Kenyon St.
- 208 Oxford St.
- 6 Cone St.
- 150 Warrenton Ave.
- 7 Regent St.
- 225 South Marshal St.
- 23 Columbia St.
- 32 Buckingham St.
- 21 Charter Oak Ave.
- 1300 Broad St.
- 111 Hillside Ave.
- 101 Catherine St.
- 618 Maple Ave.

### Little Food Pantries

- Corner of Huntington & Sigourney Streets
- 70 North Beacon St.
- 41 Evergreen Ave.
- 202 Laurel St.

### Mini Library & Pantry

- 460 New Britain Ave. (FREE CENTER, former Goodwin Library)



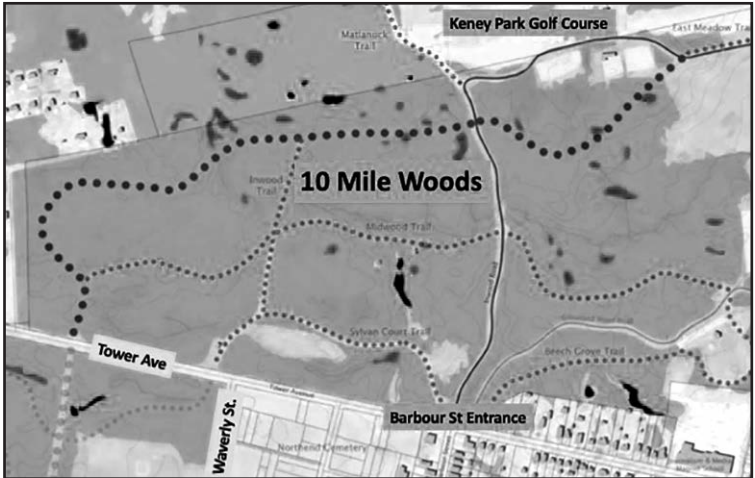
you know, Zoe Chatfield at the Free Center has created a map of the Little Free Library locations across Hartford, and she’s started doing the same for community gardens and food pantries. As of February 27th, she had compiled Little Free Library locations, and I submitted four more. New ones have popped up all over the city. Yes, the increase may have been due to the pandemic. The act of sharing and having a place to check out on a walk is a great combination when there isn’t that much to do. Now it’s your turn to take a walk. Go ahead, wander on over to the one that’s closest to your home. When I get one up in Colt Park, I just might include some copies of the *Hartford News* with the books! Check out - <https://maphub.net/ZChat/little-free-libraries-and-food-pantries-in-hartford-ct>

## A WORK IN PROGRESS: Keney Park Forestry Management Plan

BY DONNA SWARR

At the Tree Commission meeting on February 3rd, Eric Hansen, Forester at Ferrucci & Walicki, and Lisa Hayden, New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) Outreach Coordinator, presented the status of the Keney Park Climate Adaptation Assessment

Forest Service grant. So far, they’ve created an adaptation workbook and will be producing a forest management plan for this area. Jack Hale asked Eric Hansen what were the top 5 things he noticed about the 132 acres. Hansen’s response was that the good news is that there is



The 10-mile Woods in Keney Park stretches north from Tower Avenue to the Windsor line.

and Management Plan. Heather Dionne, Hartford City Forester, Herb Virgo, Keney Park Sustainability, and Jack Hale, Tree Commission Chair have been working with them on this project. They will be making recommendations to manage the 10-mile Woods in Keney Park. (see map)

Hayden explained that the funding for the project came from a U.S.

diversity of species; it is mostly a closed canopy forest. At the turn of the last century, the area was mostly farmland. Frederick Law Olmsted’s plans to plant trees was hugely successful, but many trees were blown over in a 1930s storm. Most of the trees there now were regenerated by offspring of the ones planted fol-

Continued on page 6



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Sign Up Now  
for PAL

The Hartford Police Athletic League (PAL) is now taking registrations from Hartford students. Registration is free.

The program runs through June, Monday through Friday, 3:30-7:30 pm. Activities include homework assistance, field trips, arts and crafts and numerous sports, including basketball, baseball, softball, hockey and golf. Open to boys and girls.

For more information, call Officer Vinny at 860-757-4305.

Elizabeth Park Greenhouse Show Starts Friday

The Elizabeth Park Conservancy will open its Spring Greenhouse Show this Friday March 5. The show features a spectacular array of spring bulbs and plants and is FREE and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 5 through Friday, March 12. Please use the Asylum Avenue entrance (1561 Asylum Avenue) in West Hartford. The greenhouse is located just south of the Pondhouse Restaurant.

The floral display will include French hyacinths, Muscari, tulips, daffodils, amaryllis, scented geraniums, pansies, trellised sweet peas, culinary herbs, hanging bas-



Mother and child enjoy last year's Greenhouse Show at Elizabeth Park, which was held just before the COVID-19 shutdown. Although this year's show will take place, health restrictions will be in place (see story). (Hartford News file photo)

kets, and Spanish oregano, as well as a collection of house plants and succulents.

CT COVID-19  
Restrictions at  
Greenhouse Show:

- A maximum of FIVE visitors are allowed in the greenhouse at one time.
- Masks are required at all times both inside and outside the greenhouse.
- Hand sanitizing upon entering the greenhouse.
- Maintain six feet of distance from other visitors.



WHERE ARE  
THEY NOW?

A continuing series of updates on former winners of SINA awards and scholarships

Luis Rivera: NSA Winner '13

BY LOGAN SINGERMAN

"I wanted to do more"



This is a picture of Luis Rivera from 2013 (second from the right in the blue shirt). The picture was taken at the 2013 Neighborhood Service Awards, which were held at the CT State Capitol Building. At the time, Luis was serving as the coordinator for the injury prevention program at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. He would travel to schools, child care centers, and anywhere else he could in Hartford, teaching kids about home safety, bicycle safety, pedestrian safety and distributing

bike helmets and car seats. His tireless outreach did not go unnoticed and resulted in him winning a neighborhood service award.

At the very event this picture was taken, Luis looked around and was inspired. "I wanted to do more," Luis said. He wanted to be able to manage larger programs impacting the health of kids. He resolved to further his education to obtain the credentials that would allow him to do just that. He ended up going to the UConn School of Social Work where he overcame challenges and obtained his MSW in 2017. From there he was able to become the manager of the Safe Kids Connecticut program for four years at Connecticut Children's. Last year he was promoted to the leadership team at Connecticut Children's in the Office of Child Health as a community relations manager where he continues to use his heart for the community and gift of connection to impact the world. See below for a picture of Luis in his new role.

And Luis is not done. He plans to go and pursue his doctorate in social policy.

Remarkable people don't become that way overnight. There is a journey. His began in Puerto Rico. Luis and his family moved to Hartford when he was 8 years old. He went to M.D Fox Middle School and graduated from Bulkeley High School. During these years he developed his faith in God and belief that we are made to love and help others. He attributes this faith and belief as the engine that drives him to care for his community today.

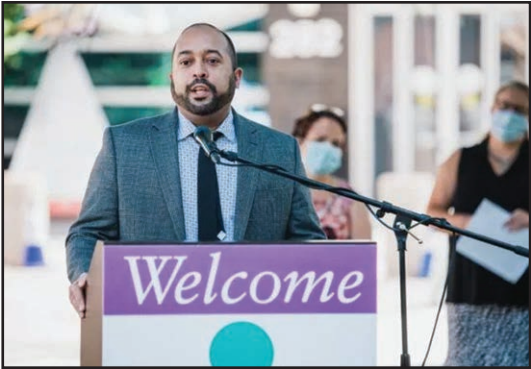
He went to community college then got a Bachelor's in Sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University. Luis could have left Hartford if he wanted to, but he chose to stay and still lives here today. "To leave is the easy way out," Luis said. "You're giving up. If you stay you can be a part of creating the solution."

"If you stay you can be part of creating the solution"

I asked Luis what he hoped people would take away from his story. This is what he said and these are the words I will leave you with:

"That it is never too late to follow your goals. I got my masters after I had turned 30. All of the hard work pays off. All of the little things you do add up to something bigger".

"It is never too late to follow your goals"



Luis Rivera in 2020 serving in his new role at the Office of Community Health at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

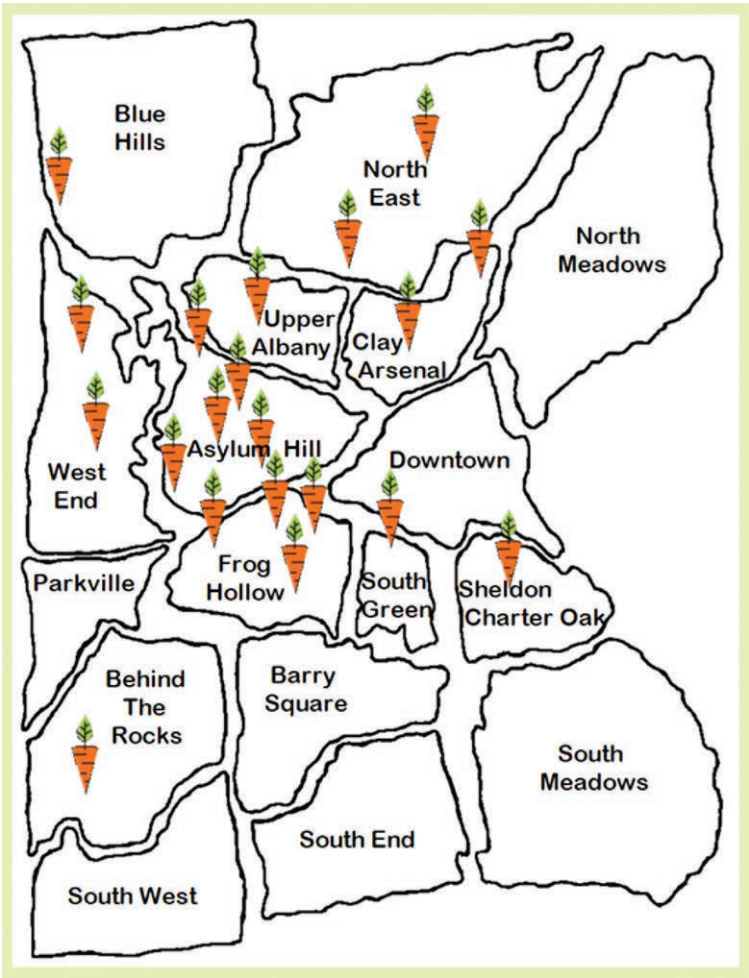
KNOX Community Garden  
Plots Now Available

KNOX, Inc. is now accepting applications for plots in its numerous community gardens located throughout Hartford.

Garden plot sizes range from 300 square feet (15x20) to 625 square feet (25x25). KNOX gardeners receive free seeds, water, and as

much advice as needed! KNOX staff, workshops, and library are wonderful resources for both new and experienced gardeners.

If you are interested in renting a community garden plot this year, visit [www.knoxhartford.org](http://www.knoxhartford.org) or e-mail [jenniferm@knoxhartford.org](mailto:jenniferm@knoxhartford.org).



KNOX Community Gardens

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Aetna Garden, 45 Sigourney St.      | • Huntington Street, 37 Hungtington St. |
| • Affleck Garden, 158 Affleck St.     | • Laurel Street, 75 Laurel St.          |
| • Battles Street, 80 Battles St.      | • Mt. Moriah Garden, 151 Earle St.      |
| • Broad Street, 650 Broad St.         | • Niles Street, 17 Niles St.            |
| • Cabot Garden, 34 Cabot St.          | • Pope Park, 1000 Park St.              |
| • Dart Garden, 240 Dart St.           | • Sargeant Street, 256 Sargeant St.     |
| • Enfield Street, 122 Enfield St.     | • Watkinson, 50 Bloomfield Ave.         |
| • Evergreen Garden, 40 Evergreen Ave. | • West End, 165 Girard Ave.             |
| • Good Shepherd, 167 Wyllys St.       | • Winter/Green, 17 Winter St.           |
| • HPHS Garden, 55 Forest St.          |   |
| • Hudson Street, 356 Hudson St.       |   |

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# Irish Week On Pratt Street: March 13 - 19

For many people, the cancelling of the 2020 Greater Hartford Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Hartford last year marked the true beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the parade had to be cancelled again this year, there will still be a celebration of Irish culture, history and music in Downtown Hartford this year around Saint Patrick's Day.

From March 13 through March 19, the Saint Patrick's Irish week celebration will be held on Pratt Street. There will be a discussions of various elements of Irish culture and former City Councilman Mike McGarry.

"While I know it was impractical to stage as massive an event as the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, which takes months of planning, because of all the Covid uncertainty, I thought a smaller event was in fact possible and with help from numerous organizations and individuals, everything kind of came together," said McGarry.

The Saint Patrick's Irish Week Celebration is being held in honor of PV O'Donnell, who passed away in 2011. A native of Donegal, Ireland, O'Donnell was a fiddler



Chip McCabe and Nicole Tate of the Hartford Business Improvement District (BID) install posters on various facets of Irish culture on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford. The posters will be up throughout March. (Hart photo)

inside 99 Pratt Street (formerly The Russell) followed by live Irish music outside on Pratt Street (weather permitting; inside in case of inclement weather). All events are free.

Face masks must be worn and social distancing precautions followed at both the lectures and the concerts.

The celebration was the brain-child of *Hartford News* columnist

with the well-known traditional Irish music group "Barley Bree." In the 1990s he came to Hartford and began playing at various local Irish clubs and taverns. He also taught traditional Irish music to many talented pupils. Through these efforts, Greater Hartford soon developed a thriving Irish music scene, most visible at "sesions" held weekly at various Downtown restaurants.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

Window displays of Irish History and Culture on Pratt Street (all month).



### Saturday, March 13 at 99 Pratt Street (Honoring P.V. O'Donnell)

4pm: Documentary on the life and times of P.V. O'Donnell  
5 – 7pm: The songs P.V. loved performed by his friends (in good weather, outside on Pratt; otherwise, inside 99 Pratt.)



### Sunday, March 14 at 99 Pratt Street

2 – 4pm: PowerPoint presentation on John McCormack by Mike Fitzpatrick.  
4 – 7pm: Open mic for Irish musicians and singers



### Monday, March 15 at 99 Pratt Street

4 – 5pm: Presentation by Folk/Celtic singer & songwriter Claudine Langille on her career.  
5 – 7pm: Music performed by Claudine Langille



### Tuesday, March 16 at 99 Pratt Street

4 – 7pm: Saint Patrick's Twilight Concerts, including:  
4 – 5:30pm: Twilight Concert Eva Meier & Jon Warner  
5:30 – 7pm: Jim Bunting and Tony Morris



### Wednesday, March 17 at 99 Pratt Street

4 – 7pm: A variety of Irish Traditional (trad) music from various players

### Thursday, March 18 at 99 Pratt Street

4 – 5pm: Irish Language Workshop with Melissa Murray  
5 – 7pm: Traditional (trad) Irish music (including songs in the Irish language) by Andrew Carey



### Friday, March 19 at 99 Pratt Street

4 – 5pm: Stories, jokes and comments by Bill Wallach and Mike McGarry  
5 – 7pm: The music of Bill Wallach

All presentations observe CDC guidelines, COVID restrictions and may be influenced by weather.

## Sponsors and Participants (as of March 1)

- The Richard P. Garmany Fund through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Hartford Marriott Hotel
- The Cathedral of Saint Joseph Knights of Columbus
- Hartford Business Improvement District
  - Rough Edges Art Productions
  - John Droney (Historical Collection)
  - Finley Government Strategies
  - Hartford Blooms/KofC
- Lexington Partners, LAZ Investments, Shelbourne Global Investments



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OPP Success Spotlight

Kenord

Hartford Youth Services Corps from 2018-2019

"Respectful. Never gives up."

-YDS

With the support of OPP, Kenord **obtained** his high school diploma and went on to **enroll** in the military.

He is currently stationed in Virginia.

Kenord will be **pursuing** a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) when he comes back to CT in hopes to use the license to **continue** work in the military.

Kenord is **grateful** for all the "real world" advice he received from the program that he applies to his daily life.

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# Library’s Baby Grand Jazz Series Plays On, HGTS Performs this Sunday

Hartford Public Library (HPL) is rolling along with its virtual 2021 Baby Grand Jazz (BGJ) series, made possible by the Kaman Foundation. Due to the current pandemic, the concerts are only available online. BGJ concerts run every Sunday through April 25, 2021 at 3 pm and can be enjoyed online on either HPL’s Facebook page or YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/HPLCT).

Up this week is HGTS.

Colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the area of Jazz and African American Music Studies, HGTS brings music to new heights with dynamic original music that explores stylistic variety while balancing

improvisational interplay, group dynamics, and arranged ensemble. Jeff Holmes is pianist with the Paul Winter Consort, a multiple NEA Composition grant recipient and leader of the Jeff Holmes Big Band featuring Dawning Holmes, vocals, and Jeff Holmes Quartet. Thomas Giampietro has been fortunate to have opportunities to record and perform all over the U.S. with artists such as Jeff Coffin, Tim O’Brien and Casey Driessen. A native of São Paulo, Brazil and an active performer and composer in the U.S. since 1995, Felipe Salles was the 2018 recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Composition Fellowship resulting

in his latest recording The New Immigrant Experience. Fumi Tomita was active in New York for many years and his latest recording is The Elephant Vanishes: Jazz Interpretations of the Short Stories of Haruki Murakami.

## BGJ 2021 Schedule

- March 7 – HGTS
- March 14 – Kyoko Oyobe
- March 21 – Jimmy Gavagan Trio
- March 28 – New England Jazz Ensemble
- April 4 – EASTER (No concert)
- April 11 – Jonathan Barber and Vision Ahead
- April 18 – People of Goodwill
- April 25 – Nelson Bello

For more information about the series, visit <https://www.hplct.org/classes-seminars-exhibits/baby-grand-jazz>.

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## Power Tripping

Continued from page 2

“secret” intel with him. Golly gee, I sure hope it wasn’t because of what I’d asked!

While I was waiting for a reply during that month, I mentioned my frustration about the non-response on a Hartford social media page. A couple of friends said “File an FOI request. That’s what you have to do.” Invoke the Freedom of Information Act? For a job description? I was supposed to jump through hoops, crash barriers, cut through red tape just to get acknowledgement that I’m a city resident requesting a completely innocuous bit of information? There’s nothing anywhere that states this is standard operating procedure in Hartford for information that isn’t classified, proprietary, or confidential. No, it’s a power trip, and our municipal government has been on that trip for far too long until it’s reached the point where the citizens actually believe it’s a mandated procedure for everything. And it’s gone to the head’s heads. “Why should I tell this person anything? That’s too easy, too quick, too courteous. Why should

I even respond? I’m a busy man. It’s better to just ignore her until I’m forced by law to answer.” One attorney friend was more succinct. “Anne”, he said, “that’s probably because the job description doesn’t even exist.” And therein lies the rub.

Hartford—including the current administration--has done a piss-poor job with transparency in government. In fact, that was a plank in the mayor’s platform during the 2015 and 2019 election cycles. The evidence is right there in the laughable excuse for our capital city’s web page, which should contain easy-to-find answers or at least links to up-to-date information. Instead, non-maintenance rules. And every Monday Hartford 311 posting/email is a joke. If I had a nickel for every complaint I’ve read or heard over the past six years from other stymied citizens who can’t find or get answers, either online or by phone and email, I’d have a hell of a lot of nickels. The verdict is in, Hartford: Guilty as charged. The lines of communication for city residents are broken and need to be fixed. How many more years will we have to wait?

## Observing, Honoring, Praying: Lent 2021

The 40 days before Easter Sunday known as Lent runs from February 17 - April 3 in 2021. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, as in written in the four gospels of the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John).

**Psalm 139**, the daily reading of which helps me keep the faith with prayers for all clergy and laypersons of diverse denominations.

**Also, Colossians I, v. 25:** Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; **implementing to bring forth the unadulterated Word of God.**

Rev. Dr. Jewel Miller  
Universal Life Children’s Church of Jesus Christ  
The God is Good Ministries



**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Barbara Roche**  
**(21-00104)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 22, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Kenneth Roche  
c/o Diane Rose  
Chace, Weber, Carrier, Boiczynk & Chace, LLP  
24 Cedar Street  
New Britain, CT 06052

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Francesca Teresa**  
**Marie Cavalieri**  
**(20-00867)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 1, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
John Michael Kelly  
Griffith & Kelly, LLC  
66 Cedar Street, Suite 208  
Newington, CT 06111

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Rashawn David**  
**Evington Allen**  
**(20-00856)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 1, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Tracy V. Allen,  
1345 Banbridge Drive  
Kissimmee, FL 34758

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Dorothy W. Meagher**  
**(21-00121)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated March 3, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Kathleen M. Lai-Hipp  
c/o Nancy W Tonucci  
Brown Paindiris & Scott LLP,  
750 Old Main St, Ste 304,  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Charlotte Gemmell**  
**(21-00173)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 24, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Jackson Gerald Gemmell  
c/o Robert K Killian  
Killian & Donohue, LLC  
363 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Jose Colon,**  
**AKA Jose L. Colon**  
**(21-00099)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 22, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Juan Colon  
c/o Wesley S Spears  
Law Offices Of Wesley S. Spears  
One Lewis Street  
Hartford, CT 06103

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**ESTATE OF**  
**Michael F. Clapis,**  
**AKA Michael Felix Clapis**  
**(21-00132)**

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated February 26, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Margaret Clapis  
c/o Rebecca A Hajosy  
Hajosy Law, LLC  
28 North Main Street, Suite 201  
West Hartford, CT 06107

**LIQUOR PERMIT**  
**Notice of Application**

This is to give notice that I,  
**CESAR M PARDO FIGUEROA**  
**54 BROWNELL AVE**  
**HARTFORD, CT 06106-3301**

Have filed an application placarded 02/16/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at  
**318 FRANKLIN AVE**  
**HARTFORD CT 06114-1850**

The business will be owned by:  
**THE FLAMING LIAMA**

Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment

Objections must be filed by:  
**03-30-2021**

**CESAR M PARDO FIGUEROA**

story will allow for further diversification in plantings. Another positive is that there is really good access to the area from the old carriage roads, although currently they are in need of repair.

The not-so-good news is that there has been illegal dumping and a lot of litter in need of removal. There are invasive plants but those are concentrated in certain areas. Portions of overstory are in decline, specifically, the black oak that is reaching the end of its lifespan. The hemlock and ash trees are being impacted by the non-native insects. The lack of diversity in the understory is a concern as the majority of the new trees are beech and a significant number are umbrella magnolias.

Recreation and access assessment will be included in the final report. The plan will act as a launching point for the city to request state and federal funding in collaboration with the Keney Park Sustainability Project. The project is expected to be completed in June of this year.

**CT Al-Anon**  
**Courage to**  
**Change Meeting**

Strength and Hope for Friends and Families of Alcoholics – Meetings are available almost everyday.

A full list of Zoom accessible meetings can be found at [www.ctalanon.org](http://www.ctalanon.org) Please look at Meetings by Town for the most updated information

For more meeting times and information about Al-Anon visit [www.alanon.org](http://www.alanon.org) or call 1-888-8ALANON (1-888-825-2666)



News Briefs

Continued from page 1

Library Starts New Chess Club

DIG USA is partnering with Hartford Public Library to teach chess to Hartford students between Grades 9-12. Every student that participates will receive free meals delivered to feed the entire family each week and a tournament official chess set and chess clock along with a bag for the chess pieces. The group meets Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 7-8pm. No experience necessary. Must attend a high school in Hartford. Professional chess coaches. Chess Set and Chess Clock provided. Email [scarr@hplct.org](mailto:scarr@hplct.org) for more information.

Interested in Joining KNOX’s Board of Directors?

On Wednesday, March 10, KNOX, Inc. will host a special ZOOM meeting for people who want to learn more about how you can share your passion for a cleaner and greener Hartford by becoming a member of the organization’s board of directors. To sign up to attend this info session featuring discussion with current members and discover how your experience and expertise can impact KNOX and our entire com-

munity, go to <https://bit.ly/35XTz9t>. You will receive an email invite to a ZOOM meeting details.

New Girls’ Life Skills Training Program

Charter Oak Boxing Academy (COBA), “Where Life is the Main Event,” is enrolling girls ages 8-18 interested in joining our “Girls Rise to Become Champions of Life Program.” This life-changing program is centered on a ground-breaking girls curriculum and our nationally renowned amateur USA Boxing & Fitness Training Program. (Boxing is not required.) It is dedicated to nurturing strong, independent, confident young ladies so they can pursue their dreams. For more information, call (860) 951-0377.

KNOX Seeks Green Crew Apprentices

KNOX, Inc. now has openings for Green Crew Apprentices. They will work with experienced crew to provide landscape maintenance and installations for customers throughout Hartford. Residents ages 18 and up can apply. The program lasts for 16 weeks, 30 hours a week. Gain skills, learn from industry employers and earn a paycheck. Gain experience maintaining equipment, operating commercial lawn mowers, plant-

ing trees, maintaining flower planters and more. To apply call 860-951-7694 or visit, [www.knox-hartford.com](http://www.knox-hartford.com).

The Bushnell Hosts Short Story Contest

The Bushnell, in partnership with the Mark Twain House & Museum, has established their first ever short story writing contest! Authors are invited to submit their short story online inspired by a prompt. The top three submissions will receive a cash prize and the first prize submission will be performed as a staged reading. This is a great opportunity for anyone and everyone, so get writing today! For more information and to submit your short story, go to The Bushnell's website, <https://bushnell.org/page-tostage>. Deadline is Monday, March 15.

Free Book a Month for Kids

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library book gifting program is now in Hartford! Register any Hartford child under age five and they’ll get a new, age-appropriate book each month for free, plus monthly tips to help them grow into lifelong readers. Visit [www.unitedway-inc.org/imagination-library](http://www.unitedway-inc.org/imagination-library) to register your child. Requirements:

Your child resides in Hartford, CT (zip codes: 06101, 06102, 06103, 06104, 06105, 06106, 06108, 06112, 06114, 06115) and your child is under the age of five.

Joan Dauber Food Bank on Tower Ave.

The Joan Dauber Food Bank, 675 Tower Avenue (Mount Sinai Hospital Campus of Trinity Healthcare), Hartford, distributes food to those in need on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM and on the 3rd Saturday of the month (March 20) from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please bring an ID with your full name and address. Families are asked to limit themselves to one food package per month so that there is enough to go around. Call (860) 714-2845 for more information.

Food Distribution at Rentschler Field

Foodshare has resumed emergency food distribution at Rentschler Field, 615 Silver Lane, East Hartford, every Tuesday from 9:30 am - 1pm. Residents of Hartford and Tolland Counties are eligible for one package of food each week for their families. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Foodshare has distributed over six million meals in central Connecticut. To make a donation, go to Foodshare.org.

Scouts Seeking New Members

Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts Pack 2 and Boy Scouts Troop 2 of Hartford at the Salvation Army on Nelson St. Hartford, CT are back in session. They are seeking new members to their troops, for more info contact Cub Master Luna at (860) 983-5629.

Rec Division March Calendar is Out

Hartford Recreation Division’s March 2021 Virtual Calendar is now available. Got to Facebook View from the Parks or Instagram [hartford\\_recreation](https://www.instagram.com/hartford_recreation) to see all the great fun things to do including St. Patrick Day activities. To Register for your FREE Grab ‘N Go Crafts Bag, email your contact info to: [recreation@hartford.gov](mailto:recreation@hartford.gov) please put “Grab N Go” in the subject line. Or call (860)757-4880.

Music Lessons and More

Instruction in piano, violin, voice & drums as well as math and English. Reasonable fees. Call Dr. Wilson at 860-727-8146.

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Tracy 860-803-9368.

**Room For Rent**  
Rooms for rent in Hartford’s West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

**22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford**  
This is a spacious 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975-\$850 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

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Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor’s office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998.

**Apartments for Rent**  
Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444.

**Room for Rent**  
Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

**For Rent**  
Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655.

**Rooms for Rent East Hartford**  
Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-308-5455.

**Rooms for Rent in Vintage Historic Building in Downtown Hartford**  
Small sleeping rooms. Large windows. Clean, quiet and safe. Located on Asylum Street in Downtown Hartford. On busline. References required. \$150-\$165 weekly. Call 860-985-7999. Text or leave message if no answer.

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# El Informativo Latino

## Senado considera nominación de Miguel Cardona como secretario de educación

El Senado de los Estados Unidos tiene programado considerar hoy la nominación del Dr. Miguel Cardona para Secretario de Educación de los Estados Unidos.

Cardona, de 45 años de Meriden, se convirtió en el jefe de educación del estado de Connecticut en 2019 después de pasar años como maestro y administrador en el distrito escolar público de Meriden, Connecticut, al que también asistió cuando era niño.

El presidente Joe Biden nominó a Cardona, quien promete ayudar a reabrir las escuelas, pero dijo que gran parte del trabajo más difícil vendrá después de que las escuelas intenten abordar las disparidades de larga data empeoradas por la pandemia de coronavirus.

Si se confirma, se espera que Cardona desempeñe un papel fundamental en el apoyo a las escuelas mientras se recuperan de una crisis que ha puesto al descubierto muchas de sus deficiencias.

El mes pasado, el Comité de Salud, Educación, Trabajo y Pensiones del Senado de los Estados Unidos adelantó la nominación en una votación de 17 a cinco.

El senador estadounidense Chris Murphy, demócrata por CT, es miembro del Comité de Salud, Educación, Trabajo y Pensiones del Senado de los Estados Unidos y votó a favor de la nominación de Cardona.

“Mi amigo Miguel será un gran Secretario de Educación, y eso es evidente por la abrumadora votación de hoy en el comité. Miguel es respetado tanto por demócratas como por republicanos y tiene un plan para poner a nue-

stros estudiantes y educadores en primer lugar. Él está comprometido a asegurarse de que las escuelas funcionen de manera segura mientras salimos de la pandemia y abordamos las desigualdades que han sido exacerbadas por COVID-19. Espero una votación rápida y bipartidista en el Senado para confirmar su nominación”, dijo Murphy.

Durante su audiencia de nominación, Cardona dijo que la educación le abrió puertas. Si bien ese es el poder de la promesa, esa promesa no se cumple para todos los estudiantes y él quiere asegurarse de que la educación sea una "puerta a la oportunidad" para todos los estudiantes.

Cardona enfatizó sus objetivos de abrir escuelas de manera segura, "abordar con valentía las desigualdades educativas de frente", eliminar los "silos" en la educación y la graduación de la escuela secundaria para proporcionar caminos hacia la universidad y las oportunidades profesionales.

En su testimonio, Cardona calificó este año escolar como uno de los más desafiantes en la historia de Estados Unidos y dijo que ha tenido un impacto tremendo en estudiantes, padres y educadores. El padre de dos estudiantes de secundaria agregó que ha "vivido esos desafíos junto a millones de familias".

En su lista de prioridades, la reapertura de escuelas es solo el comienzo. Prometió "eliminar los silos" en la educación y promover la innovación, hacer que la universidad sea accesible para cualquier estudiante y fortalecer los colegios comunitarios.

By Iris Rodriguez



### Día de la Independencia Dominicana

Sábado, 27 de febrero de 2021, se celebró en la Ciudad Hartford el izamiento de la bandera de la República Dominicana. Celebrando su independencia saludamos a todos los líderes que hacen posible este apto memorable una vez más en celebración de su independencia. En la emisora La Diferente Radio 17.10am estuvieron varios líderes en una Conferencia de prensa llevando un bonito mensaje para toda la comunidad Dominicana, residentes en Hartford y pueblos adyacentes. Orgullo de su cultura, un pueblo que continúa hacia delante. Estuvieron presente el Sr. Tejeda, Sr. Daniel Paredes y otros líderes. Los felicitamos en su fiestas patrias de parte de La Diferente Radio y Hartford Newspapers. By Wilfredo Ayala.

### Vacuna Johnson and Johnson llega a CT esta semana

Se espera que más de 39,000 dosis de la vacuna Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 lleguen a Connecticut esta semana, reforzando aún más el esfuerzo de vacunación y permitiendo más citas de vacunación esta semana, dijo el lunes el gobernador Ned Lamont.

El gobernador también destacó las tendencias positivas en las cifras de infección, señalando un mínimo de cuatro meses en las hospitalizaciones y una tasa de positividad de la prueba de siete días que ronda el 2,6%. Con estos números positivos en mente, el estado planea anunciar cambios en las restricciones de capacidad para minoristas, restaurantes y servicios personales el

jueves.

La tasa de positividad diaria llegó al 2,35% el lunes, con 114,157 nuevas pruebas reportadas y 2,680 nuevos casos. Actualmente hay 417 hospitalizados con el virus, una disminución neta de 34 desde el viernes.

Se informaron 29 nuevas muertes, lo que eleva el número de muertos a 7.651. Connecticut sigue siendo líder en la distribución de vacunas a nivel nacional, ocupando el quinto lugar en el país a partir del lunes. El estado ha administrado 627,788 primeras dosis de la vacuna hasta el momento, y un total de 963,943.

Los datos estatales muestran que el 75% de los mayores de 75 años

han sido vacunados y el 52% de la población de 65 a 74 años.

A partir de hoy, las personas de 55 años o más y los educadores pueden comenzar a programar citas para recibir la vacuna COVID-19 en Connecticut.

Los educadores y proveedores de cuidado infantil elegibles incluyen maestros de prekindergarten hasta el grado 12, paraprofesionales, personal de mantenimiento, proveedores de servicios de alimentos, conductores de autobuses escolares y proveedores de cuidado infantil, así como personal administrativo en la escuela.

Esto no incluye a las personas que no están obligadas a trabajar en las aulas de una escuela.

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